NEWARK CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR
BETTER SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION
58 Barclay Street, Newark, N.J.

ADDRESS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION - OCT. 25, 1960

Dr Kennelly, Mr. Fuchs and members of the Board; My name is Adele Gayle, homeowner and taxpayer, living at 34 Oraton Street, Newark. I am addressing you tonight in behalf of the Newark Citizens Committee for Better Schools and Education.

Last month in our presentation we stated that there were eight schools on split sessions, encompassing the following schools; South Eight, Bergen, Newton, Miller, Madison, Peshine, Avon and Robert Treat School. That presentation was made only four weeks ago and since that time, another school, Charlton Street, has been added to our list, which increases the number of schools on split sessions to nine, also split sessions in Miller Street School has spreaded to the fourth grades. Statistics from the school records show an increase from 20 to 22 classrooms in this short period of time.

Peshine Ave. now has 18 classes on split sessions, Miller has 22, Avon 16, Charlton 12, Madison 14, Bergen 14, Newton 20, South 8th 24, and Robert Treat 12 which makes about 152 classrooms on double sessions.

We are pleased that Dr. Kennelly came forth with the recommendations for the improvements to the school in the Clinton Hill section; the proposal of a new elementary school to be built in that area, and additional classrooms at Madison Avenue School. However the only schools which will be relieved of their overcrowded situation will be Bergen, Peshine and Madison.

This still leaves Newton, Charlton, Miller, Avon & Robert Treat in dire need of additional classrooms and no solution.

This however, is a long range solution to the problem of split session because nothing is being done at the moment and no definite date has been promised for any of the promised buildings and improvements.

In 1959, when Dr. Kennelly first tackled the problem there were only 90 split sessions classrooms in 7 schools, now we have 152 split sessions classrooms in 9 schools.

This makes it imperative that you find an immediate solution to relieve this situation. Here are our suggestions:

a. that a program be initiated through out the city to accelerate in full the proposals that have been recommended in regard to new construction and additions where needed.

b. that an emergency program be initiated through the city in those areas for which there has been no recommendation or proposals as yet for new buildings or additions.

c. that plans and construction for the new school recmmended for the Clinton Hill area be accelerated for completion within 2 years.

d. that an emergency program be initiated through the city so that churches, office buildings, brick homes or any safe, sound structure that conforms or can be made to conform to State standards and regulations be utilized temporarily in order that the children on split sessions may attend school on a full time schedule.

Our committee is ready to co-operate by way of finding specific institutions and building for temporary classroom use. This oroposal will relieve the situation immediately until such time as proper classroom space is made available. We hope that you will consider our ideas for be believe they are feasible and will reduce the number of double sessions classes immediately.

One more point. The residents of the Monmouth School district have been waiting for several years for a new school which had been promised to them. Do you have any report on why it has been delayed and when construction will begin?

While our emphasis has been on the general overcrowding, split sessions and inadequate facilities, the underlying concern of our organization is the deterioration of the educational standards in the schools mentioned, as a result of the existing conditions.

At the present time, our children are not being prepared to their fullest capacity for Jr. High, High School and higher education. It is impossible to learn amidst confusion and overcrowded conditions, which result in an adverse psycholigical and intellectual affect on the children. These are our future citizens and leaders who will require proper and adequate training to meet the chaotic conditions of the world. Apathy, complacency and procrastination become dangerous factors at a time like this. Let us not be found wanting in their preparation to meet the problems which will confront them in the future.

We hope that you will do something quickly.

This is an emergency.